

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Initially, the Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for conducting the personal interview on May 23, 2007.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein and are replaced with new claims 19-30. It is submitted that claims 19-30 have been drafted in a manner such that this rejection is no longer applicable. As a result, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohiro (US 2003/0170008) in view of Yasuda (US 5,949,792).

As discussed above, claims 1, 7 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein and replaced with new claims 19-30. Further, it is noted that claims 19, 23, and 27 correspond to claims 1, 7 and 13, respectively, and have been drafted to include amendments similar to those proposed during the interview that the Examiner indicated appear to overcome the outstanding rejection.

As discussed during the interview, the rejection is inapplicable to the amended claims for the following reasons.

Claim 19 is patentable over the combination of Ohiro and Yasuda, since claim 19 recites, in part, a computer-readable medium for storing a system stream that is convertible by a converting apparatus from a first format (TS) to a second format (PS), wherein the system stream is allowed to have a first format (TS) and a second format (PS), the first format (TS) is allowed to have a constrained format used for converting the system stream from the first format (TS) to the second format (PS), and according to the constrained format, a presentation of the video information of continuous complete data blocks always starts at a top field and ends at a bottom field, the continuous complete

data blocks being included in a continuous reference presentation time for video information and audio information, and the continuous reference presentation time including at least one data block. The combination of Ohiro and Yasuda fails to disclose or suggest the constrained format recited in claim 19.

Ohiro discloses a video recording apparatus that includes a TS/PS conversion unit 105 that is capable of converting a transport stream (TS), which is a data format for transmission, into a program stream (PS). (See paragraph [0050] and Figure 1). However, as admitted in the rejection, Ohiro fails to disclose or suggest a constrained format associated with the transport stream (TS). As a result, the rejection relies on Yasuda as disclosing this feature.

Regarding Yasuda, it discloses a digital signal encoding device that is capable of multiplexing multiple video streams associated with a same scene. In order to ensure continuous reproduction when switching between the video streams, it is indicated that the field parity at the switching point (i.e., whether it starts from a top field or a bottom field) between the respective video streams is identical. Therefore, a top field first flag, which indicates whether the top field or the bottom field is outputted first, should be set to be the same for each of the video streams. (See column 7, lines 11-40).

Based on the above discussion, Yasuda discloses the top field first flag, which indicates whether the top field or the bottom field is outputted first. However, claim 19 specifically recites that, according to the constrained format, a presentation of the video information of continuous complete data blocks always starts at a top field and ends at a bottom field, the continuous complete data blocks being included in a continuous reference presentation time for video information and audio information. It is apparent that Yasuda fails to disclose or suggest the claimed format of the continuous complete data blocks as recited in claim 19. Therefore, Yasuda fails to address the deficiency of Ohiro. As a result, claim 19 is patentable over the combination of Ohiro and Yasuda.

Regarding claims 23 and 27, they are patentable over the combination of Ohiro and Yasuda for reasons similar to those set forth above in support of claim 19. That is, claims 23 and 27 each recite, in part, a first format (TS) that is allowed to have a constrained format used for converting a system stream from the first format (TS) to a second format (PS), wherein according to the constrained format, a presentation of video

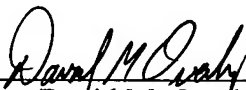
information of continuous complete data blocks always starts at a top field and ends at a bottom field, the continuous complete data blocks being included in a continuous reference presentation time for video information and audio information, and the continuous reference presentation time including at least one data block, which feature is not disclosed or suggested by the references.

Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 19-30 are allowable over the references relied upon in the rejection. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 19-30. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 19-30 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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